

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, August 19. 1707.

HOW can we read the Happy Story of the Revolution in *Naples*, without this general Observation—*The World seems tyr'd of the French Yoke*; the general Revolt of the City of *Naples*, seems to have a great many things in it Parallel to our Revolution here; the People were Bullied, Tyranniz'd over, Pill'd and Poll'd, *French* Insolence had driven them to all Extremities, and as soon as an *Imperial* Army did but march towards them, that they had a safe handle to take hold of, like one Man they lay hold of Victory and Deliverance, 200000 People they tell us run out of the City of *Naples* to meet the *Imperial* Army.

Liberty is the Darling of *Human* Nature, People may indeed be Debauch'd into the Snares and Bondage of Tyrannical Government, and those Arts may exercise a force upon Nations for a time; but the End is ge-

nerally the same, the People always lie in the Face of the Oppressor, and the Yoke of Tyranny is but transient and variable.

Oppression may indeed last for a Season, and the Enemies of Peace may Insult for a while, but Liberty always finds Time and Instruments some time or other to recommend her self to the World, and no Nation in the World, however Bigotted, however Sold under the Bondage of their own Customs, but first or last have taken Arms for Liberty, Dethron'd their most sacred Tyrants, and laid the Foot of Law upon the Neck of Power.

One of the great Testimonies of the Divine Authority of the Scripture is, that it commands, and encourages to every thing that is in it self Good, and that tends to the general good of the World, whether consider'd as Nations or Men, as well of things Moral,

Moral, as things adequated and suited to Humane Nature, and the Felicities of Life; so it is a most unanswerable Testimony of the Justice of the present War, and the honest Designs of the present Confederacy, viz. That all their Aim, all their End, all the Methods they pursue in their Conquests, is the good of Nations, the Liberty, Peace, and Prosperity of People, Liberating and Delivering the several Kingdoms and Countries they Conquer, from the Oppressions of the Cruel, and the Bonds of the Persecutor— And as this in general is their Practice, it is Evidenc'd by the eager desires, with which the People of almost all the Nations they recover, show to embrace them as Deliverers, and Restorers of them and their Posterity.

Let any one but look Impartially upon the different times, when the several Nations seiz'd upon, by the Ambition and Encroachments of France, were first Subjected to that Usurpation, and compare them with the Times when they have receiv'd their Release, and let them but observe the different Countenances of the respective Nations— We read of no joyful Acclamations, no fine Speeches of the Burgraves, no Solemn Processions of the Clergy, or Formalities of the Burghers, to meet and Congratulate the French Generals, when they took Possession of the Low Countries; no publick Application of the Nobility of the Duchy of *Millain* to Prince *Vaudemont*, to continue in the Interest of *Philip V.* The City of *Naples* made no Publick Rejoycings at the Reception of the French Vice-Roy; all we find in those Cases is the sham-Joy, and Pageant-like appearance of the State. It is as far as is directed by the Hand of Authority, and which the People cannot avoid, a sort of a Mock-mirth, or a show of Joy, rather than a real Rejoycing— All you find in those times, which has its real Rise or Beginning in the People of the respective Countries is Remonstrances of inability to pay Taxes, Petitions against Oppressions, and Complaints of intolerable Burthens.

But when after the Battle of *Ramelles*, Victorious *Marlbrough* appear'd on the Frontiers of *Flanders* in a condition to protect them; how did all the Cities run with

their Keys! How did they embrace their Deliverer; what Processions, Acclamations, what Declarations of Burghers, fine Speeches, Voluntary Submissions, Compliments, and Caresses did every Day produce from the Cities? How did they run before they were sent to, and come before they were call'd; what Honours did they every where prepare for their Deliverer, and how were all the Generals, and even the whole Army well-com'd and embrac'd, on the other hand, with what Contempt did they dismiss the French Troops, how rejoyce in their overthrow, and help on their Destruction on all occasions; to say they would always submit to the Conqueror, does not answer the Case, I am not denying that for such open Cities as *Brussels*, *Bruges*, *Ghent*, *Malines*, *Lovain*, &c. must do so; but I am noting the difference of their Behaviour, how one is the effect of their Circumstances which they cannot help, this their meer choice and the Product of their Wills, on a necessity they submit to the other, a Prosperity they rejoyce in.

With what eagerness did the Duchy of *Millain* part with the French Garrisons; how joyfully did they open their Gates, to the first Troop that were Detach'd from the German Army, after the Battle at *Turin*; and how cheerfully block up the Citadel where the French had a Garrison, tho' at the hazard of the Destruction of their whole City?

And just thus now we find it in *Naples*, they have indeed submitted to the Yoke of French Power, and in the Circumstances things were in at first they could do no other, it could not be expected; and how have they done it, curb'd by French Garrisons, and aid'd by Soldiers, they have been oblig'd to lye down under a Superiority of Power, submitted to the necessity of their Affairs, but as to their Inclinations, they appear'd at all times to be for Liberty, and the enjoyment of their Trade, Privileges, and Antient Prosperity, and therefore as soon as ever they see a Power able to protect them, they immediately discover what was always before in their Power, and the whole City runs out to meet, congratulate, and entertain their Deliverers.

And thus I make no doubt it would have been in *Spain*, had not the Power of *France*, and the no extraordinary Policy of the Confederates Measures there, unhappily more than once forc'd them to quit the Protection of those, that most early appear'd for them.

But still my Observation is just; the Cities of *Barcelona*, *Sarragossa*, and *Valencia*, with what difference, y^e did they receive the Army of King *Charles*, and the now Conquerors Duke of *Eckwick* and *Orleans*, when the Earl of *Peterborough* enter'd *Valencia*, the whole City came out to Congratulate them, the Magistrates in a Body make a Present of 50000 Pistoles, and raise a Regiment of Horse for his Service at *Sarragossa*; what Acclamations, what Pageants did they make, what Gaiety did the whole City put on?

View both these Cities at their being recover'd from King *Charles*, the one is Fin'd and Pays a great Sum to commute for Destruction, must have its Walls demolish'd, and a Citadel built to Subject it to the Power it now falls under; and as to *Sarragossa* they are disarm'd and us'd with Rigour, excessive Sums rais'd on them, and their Burghers Executed for concealing their Arms; the Reason is plain, one is a Government over their Bodies, the other a Government in their Hearts; King *Phillip* is the King of their Forc'd Subjection, King *Charles* the King of their Voluntary Submission; this Rules their Hands, that Rules in their Affections—And why is all this, but because one Rules by Power and crushes their Nation with his weight; the other brings Liberty and Law, restores Right and Justice to its old Channels, and sets the Constitution upon its own proper Foundation, and thus it is in the whole State of the present War.

And from hence it is that I say, the whole World at this time seems weary of the *French* Yoke, and I need not except here the very Subjects of the *French* Government itself, who, tho' indeed by the present accurate Management of the *French* King, they have been brought perfectly to succumb under their Misery, and seem to make it natural to them, yet as they have never yet had a Deliverance in view, they have not had op-

portunity to consult Flesh and Blood, nor to exercise the Light of Nature, and put the helping Hand to their own Deliverance; but when the Chain is once knock'd off, and the People set at Liberty to Act, I make no doubt but Reason will return to its Exercise, and Nature will certainly dictate to them as it has done to all the World, that People were not made to be the Slaves of Arbitrary Tyrants and Government, which was ordain'd of GOD, was not Instituted to Oppress, Destroy, and Subject Mankind, but to establish Justice, protect Property, preserve Liberty, and make People Happy.

Nor is it to be doubted, but when the People of *France* shall see this, and a way open to defend it, they will not be so unlike all the rest of Humane kind, as not to accept of Liberty and improve it—What we have seen among the poor *Camisars*, and the Refugees of the *Cevennois*, is a Demonstration of what may be expected.

But I am ask'd a question here, which I confess is something nice. —

We are very glad to hear of this Success in Italy and Provence—But these are all Papists, and this is but pulling down one Tyrant by another; Pulling down the House of Bourbonne to set up the House of Austria, who, if he should be made as Great as once it was, would be as dangerous to Europe, and to Liberty, and to the Protestant Religion as the other; what is all this to us?

Tho' perhaps my Answer to this may be longer hereafter, yet I shall say this to it now; 'tis true, these are Papists against Papists—But as I have often noted, this is a War of Liberty, not a War of Religion, the Princes of Europe are Confederated for Pulling down a Universal Tyrant, for Papists Love Tyranny no more than Protestants.

As to making the House of *Austria* too great, I am for recommending that to the King of *Sweden*—But our present Business is to pull down Tyranny, to pull down not the Man but the Tyrant, not the King of *France*, as King *Lewis XIV.* but the King of *France*, as the general Oppressor of Europe; if he is once reduc'd, if the Emperor, or any Emperor or King, nay, tho' he were a Protestant, proves likewise too great for